

W. G. G.

Annual REPORT

UPON THE
Public Health and
Sanitary Administration
OF
The Rural District of
Abergavenny
For the Year 1938

By

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.



1939

Abergavenny :
Dover & Co., Frogmore Street,



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
MONK STREET,
ABERGAVENNY.

May, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MISS SAYCE AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

I. General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area ... 62,685 acres.

Population ... 8,254.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to
Rate Books ... 1,961

Rateable Value on 31st December, 1938 ... £30,866

Sum represented by a Penny rate ... £132

The district is mainly mountainous in character, the altitude varying from 95 feet to 1,955 above sea level. The main occupation is agriculture; except in the south western portion of Llanfoist Fawr Parish; where a number of workers are engaged in the collieries and other industrial works in the adjoining Urban District of Blaenavon.

Vital Statistics.

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births :			
Legitimate ...	88	49	39
Illegitimate ...	6	4	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	... 11.39		
Still Births :			
Legitimate ...	—	3	3
Illegitimate ...	—	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	... 42.5		
Deaths	... 95	44	52
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	... 11.5		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			
(a) Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil		
(b) Other Puerperal causes ...	Nil		
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	... 4	1	3
Death Rate—All infants per 1,000 live births	.. 42.5		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... 45.4		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... Nil		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... Nil		

II. General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

The Public Health Staff consists of a whole time Sanitary Inspector holding the qualified certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute ; and Sanitary Inspector's Joint Examination Board ; and a part time Medical Officer of Health.

The Laboratory facilities during 1938 have remained unchanged ; and full use has been made of them for testing samples of water ; and milk samples from schools and farms in the district.

The Motor Ambulance, under the control of the St. John Ambulance Association has proved very satisfactory during the year in conveying road casualties and sick persons to and from the various hospitals serving the district. During the year an addition has been made to the District Nurses serving the area. A nurse residing at Pandy is now available for cases in Llanvihangel Crucorney, Pandy and Cwmyoy in the Parish of Grwney Fawr. There are no clinics in the Rural area ; but expectant mothers and infants from the District attend the clinics held in Abergavenny ; as do also persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

III. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

In October the Minister of Health sent an Inspector to hold a Public Inquiry into the Llanvihangel Crucorney and Llanwenarth Ultra Water Supply Schemes. Accompanied by the Council's Consulting Engineer, the Sanitary Inspector and Colonel Sandford, the present Chairman of your Water Committee, the Inspector visited the various sources referred to in the Inquiry. As a result of the Inquiry the Ministry has sanctioned the adoption of the Tyn-y-Wern Scheme for Llanvihangel Crucorney District. Having regard to the number of houses in this district with a poor water supply it is imperative that this scheme should be put into operation with as little delay as possible.

With regard to the Llanwenarth Ultra Scheme no definite decision was reached ; as the Ministry require certain tests as to the yield at various sources to be carried out.

Pandy.

The supply to the school was reported unsatisfactory by the County Pathologist. The well was thoroughly cleansed on two occasions, but there was still evidence of contamination, and it was decided to cut off the supply from the stand pipe in the school yard until the new scheme was in operation.

Llanelen, Llandewi Rhydderch, and Llanvair Kilgeddin.

There is a piped supply in these districts ; but owing to the small bore of the pipes there are houses to which a constant supply cannot be maintained. Negotiations are in progress with the owners of the Llanover Estate to take over their supply with a view to the necessary improvements.

Pantygelli Well.

Complaints were received that this well was unsatisfactory. The necessary repairs were carried out ; and overflow pipe with a draw-off tap and a concrete surround were fitted.

Govilon.

Five more houses were connected to the main during 1938.

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations.

During the year seventeen samples of water from the various public supplies were submitted to the County

Pathologist ; and in cases where the report was not satisfactory, the necessary improvements were carried out, and a second sample submitted.

2. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

During 1938 all the houses at the Mardy, within 100 ft. of the Council's Sewer, have been connected thereto. There is no public drainage in the rest of the District ; but in all recently erected houses ; whether erected by private enterprise or by your Council ; proper disposal works are installed in accordance with Public Health Regulations.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A complaint was received from the Borough Council that the Sewerage from the Bridge Cottages, Llanfoist was causing a nuisance in the field adjoining the river Usk. New pail closets and filter beds were installed.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Wherever an adequate water supply is available ; as in the Mardy, the water carriage system has been installed.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

In addition to the districts included in last year's report the collection of dry refuse is now carried out weekly at the Bryn and Pandy and Llanvihangel Crucorney ; and a monthly collection is made in the Cwmyoy district. To serve these districts a suitable tipping site has been rented in Llanvihangel Crucorney. It would be advisable, in the interests of the health of the Community, to extend this service throughout the district.

6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A classified statement of inspections carried out and notices served is included in this report.

7. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

As there are few shops in the district it has been unnecessary to take any action under the provisions of the Shop Act, 1934. There are no recognised camping sites in the area ; and no licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been necessary.

9. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no such facilities in the district ; and therefore no action has been necessary.

10. SCHOOLS.

The water supply and Sanitary arrangements in the Schools are systematically inspected. Reference has already been made to the unsatisfactory water supply to Pandy School.

11. DE-INFESTATION.

No action has been necessary ; but facilities are available should need arise.

IV. HOUSING.

Since my last report twelve houses have been erected by your Council at Llanfoist ; 20 are about to be erected at Mardy, and negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of the following sites :—

Llanelen	..	Site for	6 houses
Govilon	...	„	12 „
Llanwenarth Citra		„	8 „
Grosmont	...	„	4 „

1.	<i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—</i>	
	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	117
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	153
	(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	23
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	23
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	15
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	51
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	15

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served re- quiring repairs	...
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	...
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... Nil
(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served re- quiring defects to be remedied	...
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	...
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.
(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6

(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding* :—

- (a).— (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 17
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 17
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 80
- (b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil
- (c).— (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 6
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 35
- (d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

It will be noticed that only a small proportion of the cases of overcrowding have been relieved ; due to the fact that insufficient houses have been erected to accommodate the families concerned. This condition should be remedied completely when the houses already listed for erection are completed.

V.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1. MILK SUPPLY.

The cowsheds and dairies in the district have been systematically inspected during the year ; and action taken where necessary. Eighty-four samples of milk have been submitted to the Public Analyst ; and in those cases where an unsatisfactory report was obtained the owners of the cowsheds have been notified, and a further sample taken later.

A sample of Grade A (T.T.) milk from Coldbrook Home Farm has been submitted for examination by the County Pathologist each month.

2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Whenever possible slaughtering is carried on in the Abergavenny Abattoir ; but there are two slaughter houses in the district used for about two hours each week which are visited when slaughtering is in progress. The carcases of 90 sheep and lambs ; and 96 pigs have been inspected and passed fit for human consumption.

No action has been necessary under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act.

VI.—Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The district has been unusually free from notifiable infectious diseases ; as will be seen from the accompanying-table.

DISEASE	1-5 yrs.	5-10	10-15	15-20	25-85	Total all ages
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			...	Nil.		

Both the cases notified were treated in the Monmouth Isolation Hospital.

There have been no severe epidemics of the non-notifiable infectious diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of cases occurring during 1938; and deaths from Tuberculosis are given below.

Age	NEW CASES.				Total	DEATHS.				
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			M.	F.	Respiratory		
	M	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
5—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15—25	...	1 + 1*	1 + 1*	—	—	4	—	—	—	
25—35	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	
35—50	...	1	2*	—	1	4	1	—	—	
50—65	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	...	3	5	—	1	9	1	—	1	

Cases marked * occurred at the Mon. Mental Hospital.

Prevention of Blindness.

No special action has been necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1939.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS,

M.O.H.



